Some Observations of a Fieldtrip among the Shilluk

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13| The Shilluk occupy a country that extends from 10°45' N. to 9°15' latitude. Particularly the west bank of the WHITE NILE from about 30 kilometers north of Kaka to approximately 30 kilometers east of Lake No. There is also a Shilluk pocket within Northern Dinkaland. Thus they occupy the right bank of the White Nile from near Kodek to the confluence of the Sobat. They also extend some 60 kilometers up the Sobat river, mainly on its northern bank.

361 The Shilluk settlements, if they can be called villages, are situated from about half a kilometer to a kilometer off the river bank giving the impression of beads hung on a string(1). Also, on the banks of the khors i.e. seasonal streams which discharge into the Nile, rising from the west or east and sloping toward the Nile, Shilluk settlements are to be found. The breadth of the Shilluk land does not exceed a five hour march from the banks of the river(2) and there is a no-man's land which stretches back to the west till the Nuba-Hills. This is used as a dry season (winter) grazing land by both Shilluk and nomad Baggara Arabs, but the Shilluk do not, as a rule, pasture their cattle so far to the west. This area is quite well-known only in those areas where roads go up from the river banks to the Nuba mountains.
[34] 133 The hydrology of this area is not known although some khors intersect it with courses estimated as parallel to the Nile and joining other khors to discharge seasonal waters into the Nile north of Kaka.

[171 The Nile is the main waterway in the Shilluk land and because the 224 Shilluk have a comparatively long water front they are the most skilled fishermen of the Nilotic group. The most important khor is one called Collo which takes its waters from the Nile, or more precisely from the bank-swamps against Malakal and runs parallel to the Nile separated from it only by a stretch of comparatively high bank, one to three kilometers broad, and then discharges again in the Nile south of Kodek. Again there is another khor called Khor Arengajor which rises from the west and discharges into the Lollo. (3) This khor is of almost no hydrological importance, but of a great significance in the realm of Shilluk cosmology and spiritual thinking. This khor is [79 63] the boundary between the two religious provinces into which Shillukland is divided. On its banks one of the important rites of king installation takes place.

132 The Shilluk country is more or less a flat land covered with 133 low-growth grass and with occasional clusters of trees, mainly along rivers 137 and khor banks. The most famous tree is the Dulieb(Hyphaene aethiopica) which grows in beautiful groves on the Nile banks. The rainy season begins in May but occasional showers heralding the rains occur at the end of March and early April. The dry season begins near the end of October. Rainfall is heaviest in the south. Here is the most normal rainfall at our stations.

Fangak (9°57')	1187 mm
Malakal (9°32')	727 mm
Kodok (9°53')	698 mm
Kaka (10°46')	546 mm